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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A cysteine protease inhibitor comprising casein or a partial peptide thereof as an active ingredient.

2. (Original) The cysteine protease inhibitor according to claim 1, wherein the casein or the partial peptide thereof is derived from human or bovine.

3. (Currently amended) A cysteine protease inhibitor comprising casein as shown in the following (A) or (B) or a partial peptide thereof as an active ingredient;

(A) a peptide having an amino acid sequence of at least amino acid numbers 133 to 151 of the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID No. 1 of the Sequence Listing, or

(B) a peptide having an amino acid sequence of at least amino acid numbers 133 to 151 of the amino acid sequence shown in ~~the~~ SEQ ID No. 1 of the Sequence Listing, including substitution, deletion, insertion, addition or inversion of one or plural amino acids, and having cysteine protease inhibitory activity.

4. (Currently amended) A cysteine protease inhibitor ~~containing~~ comprising casein as shown in the following (C) or (D) or a partial peptide thereof as an active ingredient;

(C) a peptide having an amino acid sequence of at least amino acid numbers 142 to 160 of the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID No. 2 of the Sequence Listing, or

(D) a peptide having an amino acid sequence of at least amino acid numbers 142 to 160 of the amino acid sequence shown in ~~the~~ SEQ ID No. 2 of the Sequence Listing, including substitution, deletion, insertion, addition or inversion of one or plural amino acids, and having cysteine protease inhibitory activity.

5. (Original) A cysteine protease inhibitor, comprising casein hydrolysate which is obtainable by hydrolyzing casein with protease and has cysteine protease inhibitory action, as an active ingredient.

6. (Original) The cysteine protease inhibitor according to claim 5, wherein the protease is one or a plurality of proteases selected from the group consisting of proteases derived from animals and proteases derived from microorganisms.

7. (Currently amended) The cysteine protease inhibitor according to claim 5 ~~or~~ 6, wherein degree of hydrolysis of the casein hydrolysate is 6 to 45%.

Appl. No. : **unknown**
Filed : **herewith**

8. (Currently amended) The cysteine protease inhibitor according to ~~any one of claims 5 to 7~~claim 5, wherein number-average molecular weight of the casein hydrolysate is 200 to 5,000 dalton.

9. (Currently amended) The cysteine protease inhibitor according to ~~any one of claims 5 to 8~~claim 5, which comprises casein hydrolysate not less than 0.005% by mass with respect to the total amount.

10. (Currently amended) The cysteine protease inhibitor according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~claim 1, wherein the cysteine protease inhibitor is a preventive or therapeutic agent for a disease associated with cysteine protease.

11. (Original) The cysteine protease inhibitor according to claim 10, wherein the disease associated with the cysteine protease is osteoporosis, malignant hypercalcemia, breast cancer, prostate cancer, periodontitis or bacterial and viral infectious diseases.

12. (Currently amended) A food ~~and or~~ drink composition or feed composition, which is produced by adding the cysteine protease inhibitor according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 11~~claim 1.

13. (Currently amended) A method for treating a disease associated with cysteine protease, wherein the cysteine protease inhibitor according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 11~~claim 1 is administered to a subject.

14. (Currently amended) A ~~use of~~method of using casein or a partial peptide thereof in manufacture of a cysteine protease inhibitor.

15. (Currently amended) The ~~use~~method according to claim 14, wherein the casein or the partial peptide thereof is derived from human or bovine.

16. (Currently amended) A ~~use of~~method of using casein as shown in the following (A) or (B) or a partial peptide thereof in manufacture of a cysteine protease inhibitor;

(A) a peptide having an amino acid sequence of at least amino acid numbers 133 to 151 of the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID No. 1 of the Sequence Listing, or

(B) a peptide having an amino acid sequence of at least amino acid numbers 133 to 151 of the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID No. 1 of the Sequence Listing, including substitution, deletion, insertion, addition or inversion of one or plural amino acids, and having cysteine protease inhibitory activity.

17. (Currently amended) A ~~use of~~method of using casein as shown in the following (C) or (D) or a partial peptide thereof in manufacture of a cysteine protease inhibitor;

Appl. No. : unknown
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(C) a peptide having an amino acid sequence of at least amino acid numbers 142 to 160 of the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID No. 2 of the Sequence Listing, or

(D) a peptide having an amino acid sequence of at least amino acid numbers 142 to 160 of the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID No. 2 of the Sequence Listing, including substitution, deletion, insertion, addition or inversion of one or plural amino acids, and having cysteine protease inhibitory activity.

18. (Currently amended) A ~~use of~~method of using a casein hydrolysate which is obtainable by hydrolyzing casein with a protease and has cysteine protease inhibitory action, in manufacture of a cysteine protease inhibitor.

19. (Currently amended) The ~~use~~method according to claim 18, wherein the protease is one or a plurality of proteases selected from the group consisting of proteases derived from animals and proteases derived from microorganisms.

20. (Currently amended) The ~~use~~method according to claim 18 ~~or 19~~, wherein degree of hydrolysis of the casein hydrolysate is 6 to 45%.

21. (Currently amended) The ~~use~~method according to ~~any one of claims 18 to 20~~claim 18, wherein number-average molecular weight of the casein hydrolysate is 200 to 5,000 dalton.

22. (Currently amended) The ~~use~~method according to ~~any one of claims 18 to 21~~claim 18, which comprises casein hydrolysate not less than 0.005% by mass with respect to the total amount.

23. (Currently amended) The ~~use~~method according to ~~any one of claims 14 to 22~~claim 14, wherein the cysteine protease inhibitor is a preventive or therapeutic agent for a disease associated with cysteine protease.

24. (Currently amended) The ~~use~~method according to claim 23, wherein the disease associated with cysteine protease is osteoporosis, malignant hypercalcemia, breast cancer, prostate cancer, periodontitis or bacterial and viral infectious diseases.

25. (New) The cysteine protease inhibitor according to claim 5, wherein the cysteine protease inhibitor is a preventive or therapeutic agent for a disease associated with cysteine protease.

26. (New) The cysteine protease inhibitor according to claim 25, wherein the disease associated with the cysteine protease is osteoporosis, malignant hypercalcemia, breast cancer, prostate cancer, periodontitis or bacterial and viral infectious diseases.

Appl. No. : **unknown**
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27. (New) A food or drink composition or feed composition, which is produced by adding the cysteine protease inhibitor according to claim 5.

28. (New) A method for treating a disease associated with cysteine protease, wherein the cysteine protease inhibitor according to claim 5 is administered to a subject.

29. (New) The method according to claim 18, wherein the cysteine protease inhibitor is a preventive or therapeutic agent for a disease associated with cysteine protease.

30. (New) The method according to claim 29, wherein the disease associated with cysteine protease is osteoporosis, malignant hypercalcemia, breast cancer, prostate cancer, periodontitis or bacterial and viral infectious diseases.